TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 14, 1992 -- Freight traffic on the nation's railroads continued to show steady growth over 1991 volume during the week ended May 9, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today.

"Once again this week's figures are a reflection of the expanding economy, characterized by relatively low inflation and increasing retail sales," said Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president of the AAR's economics and finance department. "The 9.8 percent increase in intermodal traffic, coupled with a 4.0 percent gain in carloads, is further confirmation that the recession is over."

Carloadings during the most recent week totaled 329,714, with loadings showing identical 4.0 percent increases in both the East and West. Intermodal volume, which is not included in the carload figures, totaled 127,756 containers and trailers. The AAR also estimated railroads provided an estimated 20.4 ton-miles of freight service during the week ended May 9, up 6.3 percent from the comparable 1991 week.

For the first 19 weeks of 1992, railroads reported originating 6,094,013 carloads of freight, up 2.3 percent from the first 19 weeks of 1991. Ton-miles were estimated at 387.6 billion, up 5.0 percent. Intermodal volume totaled 2,338,822 trailers and containers, up 8.3 percent from 1991.

Railroads reporting to the AAR are responsible for 94 percent of rail carloads and 97 percent of intermodal traffic.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 9, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING MAY 9, 1992	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	20,943	20,898	0.2 %	23,468	-10.8 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	2,187	1,689	29.5	1,910	14.5
Metallic Ores	19,563	17,347	12.8	18,814	4.0
Coal	121,680	121,745	-0.1	121,284	0.3
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	14,402	14,461	-0.4	14,605	-1.4
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,047	8,578	5.5	8,683	4.2
Grain Mill Products	9,880	10,238	-3.5	9,917	-0.4
Food & Kindred Products	9,351	9,073	3.1	9,288	0.7
Primary Forest Products	8,828	8,652	2.0	9,043	-2.4
Lumber & Wood Products	5,603	5,866	-4.5	6,359	-11.9
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,007	9,398	6.5	10,698	-6.5
Chemicals	30,587	27,862	9.8	30,765	-0.6
Petroleum Products	5,530	4,864	13.7	5,289	4.6
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	10,122	9,715	4.2	9,928	2.0
Coke	5,632	4,286	31.4	5,251	7.3
Metals & Products	10,397	9,561	8.7	10,715	-3.0
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	19,505	17,140	13.8	19,838	-1.7
Waste & Scrap Materials	9,130	8,289	10.1	9,305	-1.9
All Other Carloads	7,320	7,251	1.0	7,624	-4.0
Total	**329,714**	**316,913**	**4.0 %**	**332,784**	**-0.9 %**

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING MAY 9, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 19 WEEKS ENDING MAY 9, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	**329,714**	**316,913**	**4.0 %**	**6,094,013**	**5,956,005**	**2.3 %**
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	61,667	60,206	2.4	1,146,027	1,117,655	2.5
Containers	66,089	56,138	17.7	1,192,795	1,042,417	14.4
Total	**127,756**	**116,344**	**9.8**	**2,338,822**	**2,160,072**	**8.3**
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	**20.4**	**19.2**	**6.3 %**	**387.6**	**369.2**	**5.0 %**

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